



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Legislation to Transform System for Florida's Job Seekers Passes Second House Committee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 9, 2021) — Today, Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, celebrated the passage of two key bills from the Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee that would disrupt, transform and integrate Florida's job training and career resource systems to better serve the job seekers, students and workers of today and tomorrow. Both HB 1507 and HB 1505 passed 15-0.

"For too long, we've been too focused on promoting a college degree as the only path to success. While college is great for many, it is not the only option," said Speaker Sprowls. "Our REACH Act and the Consumer-First Workforce Bill reimagines our workforce system so that we are driving people to in-demand jobs – oftentimes jobs that don't require an expensive or time-intensive path – and measuring the outcomes. With this legislation, we can ensure that Florida is on the path to be first and best in the nation at serving our people with the resources they need to land in-demand jobs, grow in these jobs and have upward financial mobility. I am encouraged by the legislation's progress and applaud Representatives Yarborough and Melo for their continued efforts."

HB 1507, the "Reimaging Education And Career Help (REACH) Act," sponsored by Representative Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, lays the foundation for a workforce and education system framework overhaul that will integrate the pieces, establish accountability and break down barriers to employment and economic mobility for Floridians. Among other things, the legislation calls for:

Integration

- A new REACH Office in the Office of the Governor to coordinate the myriad access points to education and career help
- Consistent data collection across workforce boards, centers, education divisions and providers
- A no-wrong-door-entry strategy with one common intake form and case management system

Accountability

- Higher standards for providers that want to remain on the Eligible Training Provider List
- Term limits for appointed local workforce board members
- Public posting of compensation of all executives and key employees on local workforce boards
- Uniform performance expectations and letter grades for each local workforce boards

Results

- A waiver request to bypass inflexible federal rules on workforce funding and structure
- Clear information about in-demand jobs, skills needed and pathways to success
- Local workforce boards to be measured by what matters – meaningful outcomes for the diverse communities they serve
- Rewards (funding) only going to workforce partners that can show results

“This legislation coordinates pieces of the workforce system so they will work together for the benefit of job seekers and employers,” said Representative Yarborough. “Floridians deserve a system that works for them, not in spite of them.”

House Bill 1505, sponsored by Representative Lauren Melo, R-Naples, outlines a consumer-centered workforce delivery system to meet Florida’s students, workers, and job seekers where they are – from middle, high school and college campuses to those looking to get back into the workforce after a lapse in employment.

The legislation includes a measure that requires CareerSource Florida and the Departments of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Education (DOE), and Children & Families (DCF) to create a single Workforce Information System so that consumers can access services from multiple agencies through one site and register for workforce training and pre-qualify for benefits at one location. HB 1505 also includes requirements that:

- DOE report data on the earnings of participants in its apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs to track effectiveness.
- Paid out-of-classroom work-based learning opportunities for students are prioritized over non-paid.
- A new credential program be created to help post-secondary students attain skills badges that demonstrate employability as they complete certain general education courses.

“This is a consumer-focused solution that will help us drive people to the rewarding in-demand jobs available right now,” said Representative Melo. “We will make data and information known about the resources, training and skills badges available to our students, job seekers and workers, but that is not enough; we must unify our systems to meet people where they are and ensure that when they come for help, they get a tangible result.”

The bills can be viewed here:

- [HB 1507](#)
- [HB 1505](#)

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